

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SAJ-01 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00

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R 091531 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7828

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VEINTIANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 3878

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, VS, VN

SUBJ: SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD VIETNAM VIOLATIONS

REF S: A. MOSCOW 3467, B. MOSCOW 3657

1. SUMMARY: AS COMMUNIST CHARGES OF US AND GVN VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT HAVE MOUNTED, SOVIET SPOKESMEN HAVE EXPRESSED MEASURED SUPPORT FOR HANOI AND PRG COMPLAINTS BUT HAVE REFUSED TO GO AS FAR AS THEIR VIETNAMESE FRIENDS IN ATTACHING BLAME TO U. S. SOVIETS HAVE CONTINUED TO STRESS SIGNIFICANCE OF U. S. WITHDRAWAL AND FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN SITUATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY PARIS AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ONE CLEAR SIGN OF SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO FAULT THE U. S. WAS KOSYGIN'S RESPONSE APRIL 6 TO STOCKHOLM PRESS CONFERENCE QUESTION ON VIETNAM VIOLATIONS. PRAVDA REPORT OF CONFERENCE OMITTED MENTION OF THIS QUESTION, BUT WESTERN WIRE SERVICES INDICATED THAT KOSYGIN GAVE STANDARD SOVIET STATEMENT ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEED FOR ALL PARTIES TO COMPLY WITH AGREEMENT, THEN WENT ON TO SAY HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATEMENTS SHOWED U. S. ALSO WISHED TO FULFILL AGREEMENT.

3. SIMILAR RELUCTANCE TO ACCUSE U. S. WAS EVIDENT IN PODGORNYY'S RESTRAINT DURING HIS TWO MEETINGS WITH MME. BINH (REFTELS), AND IN COMMUNIQUE UPON HER DEPARTURE. COMMUNIQUE ROUNDLY CONDEMNED GVN VIOLATIONS, BUT MERELY SAID U. S. SHOULD CARRY OUT AGREEMENT ALONG WITH OTHER PARTIES.

4. MEDIA TREATMENT OF VIOLATIONS HAS CONCENTRATED ON ALLEGED GVN ATTACKS AGAINST " LIBERATED AREAS." ONLY BELATEDLY (AND PRESUMABLY IN RESPONSE TO HANOI URGINGS) DID SOVIET PRESS ON APRIL 6 AND 6 GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO DRV MARCH 30 AND PRG APRIL 1 STATEMENTS CONCERNING US VIOLATIONS. YURI ZHUKOV TELEVISION PRESENTATION APRIL 8 INCLUDED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ALLEGED U. S. VIOLATIONS AND WARNED AGAINST COMPLACENCY, BUT ZHUKOV REITERATED THAT U. S. HAD COMPLIED WITH WITHDRAWAL OBLIGATIONS AND THAT SITUATION INCOMPARABLY BETTER THAN BEFORE PARIS AGREEMENT.

5. SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S TESTIMONY ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE USE OF AIR POWER IN VIETNAM HAS BEEN REPORTED, AS HAVE U. S. STATEMENT REGARDING CAMBODIA BOMBING. EVEN HERE, HOWEVER, SOVIET MEDIA HAVE AVOIDED INFLAMMATORY COMMENT. PRAVDA APRIL 9 QUOTED WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF GEN. HAIG'S TRIP AS SAYING U. S. HAS NO INTEREST, PLANS OR DESIRE TO INTRODUCE GROUND FORCES AGAIN INTO SEA.

6. COMMENT: SOVIET STANCE ON VIETNAM SITUATION, WHICH WE WOULD THINK GALLING TO HANOI, APPEARS PROMPTED BY TWO CONSIDERATIONS: SOVIETS HAVE STRONG INTEREST IN RIDDING THEMSELVES OF VIETNAM AS MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM, AND CONSEQUENTLY ARE INCLINED TO SWEEP A LOT UNDER THE RUG SO LONG AS PARIS AGREEMENT REMAINS INTACT. SECONDLY, MOSCOW ATTACHES HIGH PRIORITY TO SMOOTH RELATIONS WITH U. S. AT THIS POINT IN TIME, AND IS UNWILLING TO JEOPARDIZE THESE RELATIONS FOR SAKE OF HANOI'S CURRENT PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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